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Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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13-11
ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 AID-05

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5916
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS USUN 0619

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UN SWEL GT
SUBJECT: APPEAL BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY REGARDING ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA

1. SUBJECT APPEAL BY SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM, QUOTED BELOW AS PARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS CABLE, WAS RECEIVED BY USUN ON FEBRUARY 18 UNDER COVER OF A THIRD PERSON NOTE, DATED FEBRUARY 12, THAT READ AS FOLLOWS: "THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS PRESENTS HIS COMPLIMENTS TO THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND HAS THE HONOUR TO ENCLOSE HEREWITH A STATEMENT CONTAINING AN APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA FOLLOWING THE EARTHQUAKE IN THAT COUNTRY."

2. QUOTE APPEAL BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY REGARDING ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA

THE WORLD IS AWARE OF THE DEVASTATING SERIES OF EARTH-QUAKES IN GUATEMALA. WHILE THE TOLL OF DEAD, INJURED AND HOMELESS IS ALREADY KNOWN TO BE OF STAGGERING PROPORTIONS, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO MEASURE AT THIS TIME THE EXACT EXTENT OF THE MATERIAL DAMAGE INFLICTED AND THE SET-BACK TO THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY.
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THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS RESPONDED RAPIDLY TO
THE EMERGENCY RELIEF NEEDS OF THE STRICKEN POPULATION BUT
MORE AID IS NEEDED. I APPEAL TO GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS
TO SUPPORT, BY CONTRIBUTIONS IN CASH AS FAR AS POSSIBLE,
THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR
TO ENSURE AN ADEQUATE FLOW OF SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS IN
THE CONTINUING EMERGENCY SITUATION.

IN THE FACE OF THIS DIRE CALAMITY, THE GOVERNMENT AND
THE PEOPLE OF GUATEMALA HAVE SHOWN EXTRAORDINARY COURAGE
AND FORTITUDE, BUT AHEAD OF THEM NOW LIES THE LONG AND
ARDUOUS PROCESS OF RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION.
AS I STATED IN MY MESSAGE OF 4 FEBRUARY 1976 TO THE PRESIDENT
OF GUATEMALA, THE UNITED NATIONS WILL DO ALL IN ITS POWER TO
ASSIST. IN ORDER TO HELP GUATEMALA IN THIS TIME OF ANGUISH,
THEREFORE, I APPEAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO
GIVE THROUGH BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL CHANNELS
THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE. UNQUOTE
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